



**Asamblea Parlamentaria Euro-Latinoamericana
Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Latino
Américaine
Assembleia Parlamentar Euro-Latino-Americana
Parlamentarische Versammlung Europa-
Lateinamerika**

**STATEMENT BY THE CO-PRESIDENCY OF THE EURO-LATIN
AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (EUROLAT) ON ITS
PARTICIPATION IN THE THIRD EUROPEAN UNION (EU) –
COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES
(CELAC) SUMMIT**

17 JULY 2023

On the occasion of their participation the third European Union (EU) – Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Summit in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023, the Co-Presidents of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), Javi López and Óscar Darío Pérez, would like to express the following considerations:

We welcome that, after eight years, the third EU-CELAC Summit is being held with strong participation from Heads of State and Government, demonstrating the strong commitment of both regions to profoundly strengthen bilateral relations.

We reiterate the importance of holding regular EU-CELAC summits of Heads of State and Government in order to strengthen the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership as regards common topics and priorities to improve citizens' lives.

In this regard, we welcome the agreement to hold summits every two years, with the next summit taking place in the CELAC region in 2025, as well as the establishment of a permanent coordination mechanism between the EU and CELAC to ensure continuity and follow-up between meetings.

We reaffirm our support for the various regional integration processes in Latin America and Europe as a basic principle of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership, namely the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America, the Association Agreements with Mexico and Chile and the Association Agreement between the EU and Mercosur.

We insist on the importance of revitalising rules-based multilateralism that promotes universal values and principles as a means to ensure international peace and security, respect for nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity and to prevent the threat or use of force against any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, as well as full respect for international law.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment to multilateralism, peace, dialogue and cooperation to address the major global challenges of the international concert of nations. We strongly reject any action that violates the national sovereignty of states, their territorial integrity, and Chapter 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, especially those involving the use of violence or the exercise of force, and particularly those involving the use of violence against civilians.

We call for strict compliance with international law and respect for the resolutions of the UN General Assembly; We call on the international community to strengthen cooperation, dialogue and the pursuit of shared peace and security.

We reaffirm our solidarity with the Ukrainian people following the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified attack and, more than one year on, support Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

We stress that the recent inflation, food, health, migration and energy crises have exacerbated the problems of poverty and extreme poverty, hampered long-term sustainable economic and social development, and created greater inequalities.

We must step up governments' efforts to recover from these crises in a way that helps to establish the conditions for a fair and inclusive, green and digital social transition that makes societies more sustainable and equitable.

We support the UN initiatives on debt restructuring in order to mitigate the social difficulties caused by debt repayment, which, as a result of the recent crises, is becoming a serious problem for some countries, with devastating effects on their populations. These initiatives could include debt cancellation, forgiveness, exchange and restructuring strategies that are tied to these resources being invested in policies relating to education, health, industrial reactivation, social cohesion, environmental conservation and strengthening businesses, among others.

We call on the governments of EU-CELAC countries to act swiftly and to take specific short, medium and long-term measures to counter climate change, pollution, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss affecting the planet.

We ask the governments of the EU-CELAC countries to promote the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change (UNFCCC) to address the immediate and insurmountable losses and damages caused by the increase in the global average temperature.